



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
St. Paul District

# Information Paper

## Environmental Protection: Mississippi River, Bank Stabilization, Minn/Wis/Iowa



*Rockfill bank stabilization at Harpers Slough in pool 9, Iowa*

### Contact

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### Location/Description

Part of the Corps' Environmental Management Program (EMP), the riverbank erosion sites are located in pools 5 through 10 on the Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Iowa sides of the Mississippi River. All of the sites lie within the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. The primary resource problem is severe erosion occurring at many locations along the Mississippi River. The loss of landmass and the associated increases in flow or sedimentation or both result in the loss and shallowing of aquatic habitat in adjacent backwaters. This adversely affects circulation patterns and water quality in the backwaters.

The project stabilizes about 12,000 feet of riverbank. Out of 55 potential stabilization sites, 12 sites were selected based on the cost for habitat benefits gained, agency priorities, location, available funds, and construction considerations. Rockfill was used to stabilize the sites. The Corps did some limited dredging for access. Sites selected for stabilization included two sites in pool 6, one site in pool 7, one site in pool 8, three sites in pool 9, and five sites in pool 10.

The project directly reduces erosion and creates about four acres of rock habitat that benefits fish such as smallmouth bass. The project benefits about 1,500 acres of aquatic habitat and improves water quality in some backwater areas by reducing or maintaining side channel flows.

### Status

Stabilization of the sites was done in stages, beginning in pool 10 in September 1995 and ending in pool 6 in September 1999. Three of the 12 sites were completed with funds provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### Authority

The Mississippi River Bank Stabilization Habitat Project was planned under the authority of the Upper Mississippi River System - Environmental Management Program (EMP) and constructed in accordance with a Definite Project Report dated August 1995. The EMP was authorized by Section 1103 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, and reauthorized by WRDA 1999.

The project was planned and designed as part of a cooperative effort among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin Departments of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and local interests.

### Fiscal

Project design and construction costs were 100 percent federal because all of the sites in the project were located on national wildlife refuge lands. Operation and maintenance costs are 100 percent federal (a responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

Federal cost	\$1,697,000
Non-federal cost	\$0
Total cost	\$1,697,000